

Proverbs 22-08-17b

We are in the book of Proverbs. We have looked at the verse 8 and We're in the middle of verse 9 Hear the instruction of your father and do not forsake the law of your mother why they will be a wreath of Grace a grace wreath on your head and chains about your neck Chains about your neck. Why would you want chains about your neck? Is this a necklace? That's the first thought if you say There's a graceful wreath or a wreath of grace and you think well, this will be an ornamental type of jewelry Decoration But it's fascinating because the word for neck in Hebrew that is used here is Rare, it's only found in Proverbs and this is one of its occurrences one of four and The word in Hebrew is Gar garrote gar garrote Roughly gar I'm messing up the vowels a little bit, but it's easier to say this way.

Gar garrote There's a bit of a guttural in the middle there, but we'll ignore it for our purposes, but it comes from a verb garrar and You can see how the word for neck Was derived because garrar g-a-r-a-r is The word that means to drag So think about animals in the ancient world think about your Oxen and your goats and your sheep and your camels and if you want them to go somewhere, what do you do? You throw something around their Gar garrote and you drag them where you want them to go so The neck is a point of control What did enemies do? To you if they defeated you and paraded you into town before the jubilant population What what was the common mark of? victorious Overcoming they would put their foot on your neck Right because that is the place of control when they would put recalcitrant individuals into the stocks What happened you stick your hands in those little holes and your wrists are Imprisoned and your head goes into the larger hole in the middle and your neck is The means by which you are controlled so there is a bit of a Clever double entendre here the idea of ornamentation is present but this is functional This is functional Jewelry, this is functional ornamentation It isn't just this will really be great people will look at you and say wow how finely decked out you are You must be rich. Look at that wreath. Look at that necklace The Grace on our head is something that God will see It is God's grace that is on our head and this chain around our neck Which is the instruction of the father and the law of the mother? will be a source of control self control Self-control, which would you rather have a piece of jewelry? That's just pretty to look at or something that actually accomplishes a useful purpose We can use God's grace.

Can we not we can use? divine enablement For controlling us this instruction and training in the home notice the source of These the father and mother where are they doing this? Where do the father and mother impart this instruction and these this law these rules in? the home this is important for what's coming up because what the individual receiving this word of proverbial wisdom is about to get next is What you get outside the home This is what you receive or should receive in the home grace on your head and Something around your neck that is not only admirable and Respected but is

useful Get this thing around your neck so that you don't stray to the right hand or to the left It is useful. It is not just decorative This should be your marginal note useful not just decorative People will be impressed with your jewelry. No, they will be impressed with your comportment your conduct your grace and Your self-control of all the fruits of the Spirit.

What is the last one? What's the first one the fruit of the Spirit is love what's the last one? Self-control start with love and you end with self-control. That's what it imparts Chains about your neck interestingly the word for chains is only used about three times. It's going to occur again in Proverbs and It is used back in judges I believe it's in chapter 8 where Gideon has already done his lamps and pitchers deal and now he's kind of ruling in the area and they go out and they defeat the Midianites and they're looking at the booty in the plunder and So Gideon tells the guys You know, you can keep most of it Just give me one earring each and I want the chains off the necks of the camels and it's this word Garga wrote Camel necks is the other place that it's used.

So I thought that was that was pretty cool So Very quickly though before we leave the idea of the neck we've seen it here in chapter 1 verse 9 but look next door in chapter 3 verse 3 Let not mercy and truth forsake you Bind them around your neck Why for decorative purposes so that people will admire your your appearance We just talked about do not forsake the law of your mother do not let mercy and truth forsake you You don't forsake the law don't let mercy and truth forsake you how could that happen? Use your imagination here. How could mercy forsake us? I was editing a sermon by dr. Grizzle and he made a really good point And he was quoting somebody before him but the point was if you go before the court and you are charged with a crime, but you are innocent and the judge says I I see that you're innocent.

So I'm gonna show you mercy Dr. C said The the man rightfully ought to object. I don't want your mercy. I want justice I don't need mercy because I'm not guilty mercy is leniency and Overlooking what I probably deserve But I don't deserve punishment because I'm innocent and I don't need your mercy.

I want justice. I want these charges reversed I want my record cleansed. I Want the people who wrongly accused me held to account.

I don't need mercy if I'm Innocent and upright mercy You know that we may find mercy and grace to help in time of need when you are needy when you don't have the resources that are required for the task or the occasion when you have Made bad decisions and have gotten yourself in a tight spot. Now is when mercy is Called for so let not mercy forsake you How could mercy forsake us Well, who is the one expressing the mercy? If we distance ourselves from the merciful God our Father if we distance ourselves from the qualifications to receive his mercy How are we forgiven for example for sin? There is one kind of forgiveness that was accomplished at the cross where the

penalty for sin was absorbed by the Savior But that did not eradicate the power of sin, which is manifold. It has other effects It has other consequences that were not born by the Lord Jesus on the cross He bore the penalty.

He bore our sins in his body on the tree the penalty So we will not be held account as the wages of sin being death, but we have other consequences sinning makes us a sinner and we have an identity and we have a problem with not being able to Escape the commit committing of sin we need deliverance from that we have consequences from our sins that hurt others and We can't always fix those consequences we sin and others are damaged or hurt or injured and wronged and We cannot always make those wrongs, right? It is God who shows mercy So if we have forsaken mercy, it means we've forsaken the source of mercy who is God himself How could you forsake the truth? This is a little easier to fathom this is despising wisdom and instruction, right this is Not paying attention to the Word of God not seeking out and benefiting from The Word of God itself either presented by someone else or in our own investigations our own devotions Find someone who can make the Word of God meaningful who can Can help reveal its truth and Then get out of the way so that we can benefit from the truth directly do not forsake the truth Let not mercy and truth forsake you Bind them around your neck if mercy and truth are around our neck. What will they do? Just like a rope around the neck just like a leash around the neck of your dog We've got a little dog that will happily Escapade himself off the property and into harm's way around other people's property and other people's dogs and across roads that are occasionally traversed by fast-moving vehicles It is to his benefit that a collar be around his neck and in his case a harness and a leash or a tether of some kind Now These things can prevent us from excess they can prevent us from doing things that are harmful to ourselves and others Bind them around your neck write them on the tablet of your heart Notice we do our own writing He doesn't say sit still while the priest comes and writes these truths on the tablet of your heart Writes mercy on the tablet of your heart not just truth, but mercy to remember God's mercy. This is motivation Let them not forsake us But it's around the neck that's So in addition to Proverbs 1 9 we have the neck mentioned in 3 3 look down at verse 22 of this same chapter They will be life to your soul they what Let them So you got to go back to verse 19 the Lord by wisdom founded the earth by understanding he established the heavens wisdom and understanding are in view By his knowledge the depths were broken up and clouds dropped down the dew my son let them not depart from your eyes This is wisdom and understanding It doesn't say here the heart.

He says the eyes we have to keep looking You can't learn it once and remember it the rest of your life. This is not riding a bicycle Interestingly I took a motorcycle safety course and some of these instructors have been riding for years and years and One of the things they told us is they go out and practice basic skills They don't just assume that well. I've been riding a long time they practice Stopping on curves, which is a difficult skill to master Your bike wants to stand up if you apply brakes while you are turning your

bike will stand up you will go over You will wind up in the ditch with your bike on top of you or underneath some other vehicle in the in the other lane It is a skill and it requires practice and these experienced Harley riding nation traversing people get on their bikes and practice turns they practice stops they practice turning their heads and Checking their blind spots.

They they intentionally practice basic skills because they know it can be the difference between life and death injury and no injury to themselves and others so In verse 22 they will be life to your soul and grace to your neck We had the ornament of grace the wreath of grace on the head But now there is grace around your neck and God's grace will stop us like Balaam's donkey That angel with the sword in his hand was God's grace that Balaam didn't go and commit any egregious wrong in cursing Israel instead of blessing them as God intended and God stopped him God put an obstacle in his path and that was grace Balaam didn't earn it didn't deserve it, but God manifested grace And it was in behalf of others ultimately so grace to your neck and The fourth passage is in chapter 6 verse 21 My son in verse 20 keep your father's command and do not forsake the law of your mother notice very similar to Our passage keep your father's command instruction is Accomplished in structure in instruction and structure have the same root as As construct destruct the structure portion of that You have in instruction It is the inculcation of structure of order of discipline and do not forsake the law of your mother very same Exhortation why bind them continually upon your heart tie them around your neck Yeah, you might think that the necklace or the chain in 1-9 our passage is an ornamental piece of jewelry You don't tie a necklace around your neck you tie something that constrains your motion Tie them make sure they control Where you go and what you do tie them around your neck when you roam they will lead you look at the next verse Tie them around your neck and when you're traveling They will guide you. This is the reins on the horse. This is the rope around the ox's neck When you sleep, they will keep you and when you wake they will speak with you This is what is inculcated in the home.

How important is the responsibility of parents to create structure? to provide instruction With authority with consequences and rules Any Experienced teacher will tell you that small children thrive in a structured environment It provides security insecure children want to find the limits Can I? Can I throw this in the floor? Can I raise my voice and scream? Can I throw something at another student? Oh, no There are rules and they stop me from doing this. It provides security when children know where the walls are It enhances security and security creates freedom this nation for many decades was a bastion of freedom because there was a Structure that allowed for that freedom within limits all freedom is limited in some way people who fly You're limited by what your aircraft will do you can't stall you can't go into a Tight spin you can't just do anything you want up there. There are limits.

Although flying is very freeing driving a vehicle two wheels or four can be very freeing

but there are limits and there are constraints that Enable that freedom to function and to be enjoyed all freedom requires Structure all of it. There is no unstructured freedom that doesn't ultimately become corrupt and destructive none so When you roam they will lead you when you sleep they will keep you when you wake they will speak with you Why verse 23 chapter 6 for the commandment is a lamp and the law is a light? remember Psalm 119 105 thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path Commandment is a lamp and the law is a light reproofs of instruction are the way of life getting corrected being rebuked Suffering consequences for bad decisions and poor choices is the way of life without that Life is going to hand it to you at a time and in a place where there is no Loving set of parents who have your best interest at heart. It is going to be a harsh and cruel consequence from an unforgiving unloving uncaring outside world better to learn how to avoid those hard knocks and devastating collisions in the home In the home father and mother turn back to chapter 1 now What is the contrast verse 10 my son? so having just talked about the Value of instruction from the father here is the father speaking my son that tells you here's the father talking This is instruction my son if sinners entice you The old King James said consent thou not Do not consent now, what are we talking about here? The father and mother in a loving home are not Entertaining a bunch of sinners.

Where are these sinners? They're outside When you leave the home and you're out from under this law of the mother and instruction of the father There are other influences that are going to try to lead you They're going to try to put their arm around your neck and take you bad places So this then this word sinners. This is from the Hebrew word katat ch a Katat t a t katat and It can mean to miss the mark, but what it basically means is they are offenders Now, how do you know if this person persuading you or enticing you or giving you a suggestion is a sinner or not? What this word basically means is offenders their Actions their their way of life. Their attitude is visible They are obvious offenders.

You have seen them offend before they want to offend now They're not Surreptitious, they are not invisible. They're not Wolves in sheep's clothing. They're wolves in wolves clothing They're very obvious This is the fast crowd.

This is the you know the click that is cool and and is doing nefarious things because they think it's cool and Because it gratifies them and they are rule breakers and they are visible rule breakers They have already Violated the previous exhortation To not forsake home training and instruction. They're doing it and they're enjoying it This is sort of the sin of the high hand so if these offenders Entice you Invite you suggest that you join them don't agree This is consent this is a choice You can choose They're not going to force you at gunpoint to join them This is a choice Do not agree do not consent If they say come with us, let us lie in wait Unto blood shed is not there let us lie in wait and We're going to surprise and overcome Passers-by Even if it comes to blood it can be anything less but up to and including shedding blood It isn't just shed blood You could say well, you know, I don't mind Purse snatching. I don't mind shoplifting.

I don't mind You know defacing public property or you know some other Trespass some other You know minor infraction I wouldn't want to murder anybody that this is unto blood this is anything up to and including If they want to persuade you to any kind of criminal behavior Let us lie in wait Unto blood we're not real sure what's going to happen. But even if somebody Gets hurt badly That's not my problem Let us lurk secretly for the innocent Without a cause in the in the Jewish Publication Society They put this in parentheses with an exclamation mark as though this is not a part of the quote Let's lurk secretly for the innocent and then as a commentary for no reason without a cause Let us swallow them alive like she'll and Swallow them whole like those who go down to the pit We're going to make them complete victims now, what does this mean to to swallow them and take them? Alive like she all does In the ultimate sense when and this this was a little brief soliloquy in the movie unforgiven that Clint Eastwood made some years ago and Mr. Mundy I think was his character is talking to a young guy who has this itch to be a gunslinger and to perpetrate some violence and get some vengeance and whatnot and Clint Eastwood's character says Something to the effect. I'm paraphrasing but it's no small thing to kill a man.

You're taking everything. He is everything he has and everything he ever will have and That's the idea here when you take a life. You're not just ending someone's heartbeat.

You're not taking away their consciousness You're taking away everything they have and everything they ever will have ever would have had experiences possessions perceptions Relationships opportunities At the ending of a life all of that is gone and it's gone permanently At best if they're a believer, there are some things coming in the next life. But in this life it Everything they have everything they ever will have is gone That's the idea here and these people don't think that's a big deal Just like this young man in the movie didn't think it was any big thing He was more interested in the thrill that he would experience in Taking a life than in the consequences that would follow and What is the motivation? Is this the thrill of killing the thrill of taking a life? no, this is the disregard of the value of the person of the the nature of the victim for gain, I Am not going to think about the possessor of these things I'm going to do it because we shall find all precious possessions. I Don't want to earn I don't want to sweat.

I don't want to labor. I don't want to save I don't want to go through what is necessary to obtain precious possessions I will just conk somebody in the head and I'll have all precious possessions I will take the shortcut. I Don't need to To go the normal route.

I will take it and the motivation for this violent attack on others unto blood is Possessing what they have I? Don't care that they won't have it anymore and that they'll never be able to have anything again as long as I have it That's all I care about It is the ultimate expression of the self-centered Self-gratifying life and it takes many forms people in politics will gain power and Do ruthless things to gratify themselves at the expense of their Constituents at the expense of the country at the expense of structure and freedom

and the future I'm getting mine. The same thing is true in the financial world We've had many scandals where people have built others out of thousands of dollars They don't give a hoot in the rain barrel about those who lose their life savings Who who lose the opportunity to pay for their children's? Education or to provide for themselves in old age who are going to lose everything they own Because of the shameless naked greed that causes these people by Fair means or foul to bilk others out of their hard-earned hard-won Possessions, that's the motivation. We shall find it all kinds of You notice kind is in italic.

We'll have it. We'll have it all All precious possessions we shall fill our houses with spoil Does God grant spoil After taking the lives of people in under certain conditions Did God tell Israel go into the land and wipe out the specific people that I Designate at a specific time of my choosing on a one-time basis Entering the land of Canaan the iniquity of the Amorites is full They have been warned the law has been written on the cliffs They have every opportunity like Rahab and others to come and choose God and join his people There is mercy and grace before judgment But the judgment is going to fall and God used Israel as the instrument of his judgment It doesn't mean God's people are always instruments of judgment anytime anywhere at places and times of their own choosing this is at a place in any time of God's choosing and deconstructing progressive Christians today do not understand that facet of Old Testament warfare and God granted the spoils as A picture of what will happen when the final victory is won over Satan and his dark forces these angels in glory had possessions had dwellings and We will inherit those places and those privileges and those opportunities Due to the victory of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross and in him we have inheritance he is going to be the firstborn among many brothers all of whom are going to inherit the spoils and this is something of a Metaphor for us to celebrate the victory of the Lord Jesus Christ over those who need to be conquered Need to be eliminated because their iniquity is a metastasizing malignancy that has to be eradicated and eliminated and To see it and to be a part of that elimination is to be inoculated against it for all of the eternal future So there is a reason for this God doesn't just delight in the death of women and children and whatnot It is a necessary Lesson it is a shocking Piece of instruction for our benefit So these are wanting to take spoil at a time in any way of their own choosing They are not under the authority or the structure of God. They are not limited Nor are they Impressed by God's grace God gives grace before judgment Noah spent years building the ark anybody that wanted to join Noah on the ark could have accepted a ride But they didn't Peter calls him a preacher of righteousness So the message was delivered Nobody picked it up.

So whose fault is it that they didn't survive the flood? But this is a time and place of God's choosing it is a judgment of God's these people are their own God So they say I will decide who doesn't deserve to have their stuff. You're privileged you you got this on the backs of Underprivileged or non-privileged people so it should be taken from you and it should be taken violently and I declare myself Justified and righteous and vindicated by

taking it any time in any way of my choosing. What are you doing? You're declaring yourself to be God you're elbowing God out of the way and saying no vengeance is mine.

I will repay saith me This is one of the major problems in the recent history of our country and Elsewhere on the planet and this is the attitude that God Condemns and tells his people do not be persuaded do not fall in with this kind of thinking We shall fill We shall find all kinds of precious possessions we shall fill our houses with spoil cast in your lot among us Let us all have one purse We will take and we will share amongst ourselves We will all share in what we take from others Sometime for your own amusement or edification if you don't already know this take a look at what as just one of countless examples of What Ho Chi Minh did? in Vietnam starting in the 1950s He had a land reform he felt like there were privileged landowners and then there were many many poor people over there so Uncle Ho Started in 1953 to 1956 and he murdered approximately 170,000 landowners merchants educated and religious people Throughout what he called a class struggle campaign In 1954 after the Geneva Convention about a million northern refugees moving to the south under protection of the state of Vietnam that later became the Republic of Vietnam in 1955 and so on but in the name of Social justice in the name of equality in the name of everyone sharing the same purse This was exactly what happened this is not just unique to ancient biblical times it happened Within the lifetimes of many of us and it is happening today It has happened in just the last two years and continues to happen Let us all have one purse verse 15 my son once again, this is the structured instruction from the father Do not walk in the way with them do not support them do not encourage them do not sympathize with them Why? Keep your foot from their path for their feet run to evil This is not the way Robinhood is actually a criminal You do not rob from the rich and give to the poor and Get blessed by God you do not have a wreath of grace on your head you have the mark of the beast on your head The beast is going to redistribute wealth the beast is going to come up with his own version of justice And he is going to force everyone else to comply and if you do not guess what? Yes starve You Got no fuel you've got no heat you've got no electricity you got no groceries Can't feed your kids can't do your job Because the beast has decided what is righteousness, and what is not it is as old as the human race from the Tower of Babylon This has been taking place do not walk in the way with them keep your foot from their path Why this is not the narrow road leading to the straight gate of life? This is not a wreath of grace and an ornament around the neck This is evil They make haste to shed blood surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird I'm going to correct this real quickly if I say correct, I'm going to give you my understanding of what this means and I can't find anybody that agrees with me, but I don't really care This is a this is a weird thing to say surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird What does that mean if you're going to if you're going to set a snare or a trap? You want to do it when what you're about to snare and trap is not around? otherwise They see it coming hey You know if I if I string a claymore across the path And you see me tying the wire on the other side you're not going to go walking

through there and get blown to bits You saw it coming so in vain the snare is spread in the sight of any bird You don't let the bird see you set the snare you want unsuspecting birds to come right? but these and it says but in verse 18 this is just the Conjunction Wow and it is translated in about nine or twelve different ways If you want to follow my suggestion you will cross out but and put so Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird so they lie in wait For their blood notice own is in italics if you want to follow my suggestion you can scratch that out These individuals what this is telling you this is not saying sooner or later It's going to catch up with them. You know karma turnabouts fair play what goes around comes around They're going to attack others, and they will themselves be attacked that is not what this is saying What they're saying is these guys don't operate in the open. They are surreptitious.

They're sneaky They don't spread the net in the sight of their victims They lie in wait for their blood the first day is these offenders and criminals and the second day is the victims They the criminals lie in wait for their the victims blood and you'll see how this makes sense as we go forward They the criminals lurk secretly for their the victims lives It's secretly the point here is this is not overt these people are Hypocrites they are pretenders. They act like they're out for justice and righteousness and they're they're They want peace they want harmony But secretly they're wanting what other people have and they're going to take it when they're not looking It is the secrecy it is the deception it is the subterfuge It is the hiding and lying in wait their motives are not evident. They talk a great fight But secretly they're out for blood and they're out for these possessions therefore verse 19 So the ways of everyone who is greedy for gain it takes away the life of its owners they're not just getting the the the goods They're destroying the lives notice.

These thieves are not the owners who are the owners the owners are the victims They're lying in wait to take away the possessions of the owners The ways of everyone who is greedy for gain in trying to take your stuff. They are taking your life That's why all through this Blood keeps being mentioned when they take your possessions. They're taking your life.

They're taking your livelihood They're taking your ability to sustain and support you're going to starve there are going to be shortages You won't be able to find formula. You won't be able to find fuel You won't be able to find dry goods ultimately you won't be able to find groceries Because these people are out for gain and they say well, but I just want the stuff I just want control of the of the resources or of the economy whatever when they do that They are taking the lives of its owners They're fooling themselves when they say oh, I don't want to hurt anyone. I just want to reorganize Society I just want to reconstruct things in a different way.

They have not listened to the wisdom of God They haven't listened to instruction from the father and the law of the mother that is grounded in biblical truth That says each one

should carry his own load work quietly with your hands Don't be a burden. Oh, no, let's let's steal from others and then we'll share the purse This is declared to be evil by God in Proverbs chapter 1, but there are people Christians trying to do it today We need to be instructed and we need to be Cognizant of the authority of God that says that is not my way There is a way that seems right to a man, but the ends thereof are the ways of what? Death it takes the lives of the owners. It seems right But that's why we don't trust ourselves to figure out what's right.

We go to God to be told what is right That's the value of Proverbs Well, we have made it to verse 20 where we will pick up next time wisdom calls aloud outside This is a new section here in chapter 1 fraught with wonderful Applicable truth and that's where we'll begin next time, but we'll close here in a word of prayer father Thank you for your provision. Not only for our bodies but for our souls we thank you for the truth of your word and for your Holy Spirit to Sow it deep into the soil where it can sprout and bear fruit. We pray that We can identify and eliminate the rocks and the thorns and the other things that choke the word and render it unfruitful in our lives that we will have the humility and the receptive hearts that will take these truths to heart and Enable us to shine as lights in the midst of this generation so that others can See what we do and see how we live and glorify you be drawn to you seek you out And come to you through the Lord Jesus Christ.

We pray these things in Jesus name. Amen